

Engineers Evaluate Septic System for Proposed Library Site

Department of Public Works Director Walter Tonaszuck said this week the town has hired Warren Terrell of the Westford engineering firm, Dufresne-Henry, to evaluate septic system options involving the tie-in of the proposed Upper Alden Library.

The estimated \$2,500 inspection will be paid for by the Board of Health and the library building fund.

The inspection of the system comes on the heels of a meeting with Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) officials last Thursday. The informational session was called by the board of health at the central fire station to clarify issues involving the tie-in.

Failure of Annual Town Meeting to approve a capital expenditure to fund hook-up of the of the library to the wastewater treatment plant behind the high school left officials at a loss as to where the library building plans now stood. The request to bond \$300,000 for the tie-in failed by 5 votes, to get the necessary 2/3 necessary. The vote was (114-62) in favor.

Answers came when Frank Mezzacappa, DEP Environmental Engineer with the state's water pollution control division, reaffirmed an official letter sent by DEP's Jeffrey Gould, chief of the water pollution control section, notifying the town last year that "the town must proceed on a timely basis to tie these buildings into the wastewater treatment facility." Gould also attended last Thursday's session along with members of the Fiscal Advisory Committee, FinCom, and other town boards and committees.

FinCom and the FAC recommended against the \$300,000 expenditure on the basis that they felt there was not enough information to support the expenditure and they were not sure that the existing septic system at the library could not be used.

Members of the Board of Health maintained that DEP was always very clear about the need to tie the buildings in to the treatment plant. Town Manager Rocco Longo attributed part of the confusion over the issue to the fact that the town building inspector, Kevin McDonald, left in January to take a new job in Chatham.

Mezzacappa told those in attendance the existing system could possibly be upgraded to comply with Title V regulations for use on a temporary basis, but the town

Duxbury Clipper, Wednesday, April 3, 1996

would have to agree to hook up the new library building, old library building and the town pool eventually in any case.

Currently, the Duxbury Elementary School, the Alden Lower building and the junior-senior high school are the only buildings hooked up to the septic treatment plant.

The 20-year old wastewater treatment plant has a design capacity of 50,000 gallons a day and uses about 20,000 gallons now.

Library Trustee Chairman Jane Bradley said the trustees are willing to do whatever is required by the state. DEP will be the approving authority for the building permit associated with the library construction.

The \$6.3 million library project to convert the upper Alden building into the town's new public library is scheduled to go out to bid later this month.

Mezzacappa said his agency does not want to hold up the library plans. "Maybe we can let you buy some time, but eventually you are going to have to make the tie-in," he said.

Town Manager Rocco Longo said the engineer who will inspect the septic system is the same one who completed a review of the same sewer connections at the time of the Bluefish/Snug Harbor septic system study.

"The consultant will complete an in depth review of the Upper Alden's septic system, basically for its life expectancy and the precise costs to tie into the school's sewage treatment facility," he said.

Longo said ultimately a determination will be made as to the need for a special town meeting to fund the work.

Tonaszuck said this week he now believes that the hook up can be accomplished for less than \$300,000 but final figures will be determined by the engineer.

"We'll be looking at the existing septic system, what would be involved to upgrade that system, 2 alternatives for hook ups including piping to the high school directly across the field from the upper Alden to the area near the flagpole by the island at DES or tying into the lower Alden system. We'll be looking at all those alternatives, costs and feasibility," said Tonaszuck, who estimates the inspection work should be completed within 2 weeks.